

# HELPFUL RESOURCES

## JOB RESOURCES

### ► WHERE TO TURN WHEN UNEMPLOYED

The United Way of Connecticut has produced a document titled "Where to Turn in Connecticut When You Become Unemployed." It contains information regarding unemployment insurance, medical benefits, legal assistance and help with job searches and money management. Contact my office at 1-800-842-1420 to receive this helpful publication.



### ► CTWORKS CAREER CENTERS

A regional Career Center is located in New Haven to provide guidance and services to those seeking employment. 203-867-4030

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE & CONSERVATION

### ► SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

**Choose Your Electric Supplier**—The rate you pay for the generation portion of your electric bill may be lowered by 10 percent. 1-877-947-3873 or [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com)

**Home Energy Solutions**—This program helps customers reduce their bills by making their homes more energy-efficient. 1-877-947-3873

**Helping With Payments**—Programs are available to help customers reduce or eliminate their past-due balances. 1-800-286-2828

### ► STATE SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS

Connecticut provides sales tax exemptions for energy-efficient products including: Insulation • Caulking • Doors • Fluorescent light bulbs • Furnaces • Geothermal heat pumps • Programmable thermostats • Water heaters • Windows

## CONSUMER PROTECTION

### ► MAKING THE "DO NOT CALL" LIST STRONGER

Current law allows the state to impose fines for violations of the "No Sales Solicitation Calls" statute under the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act, and legislation passed last year would allow the state to impose an additional \$11,000 fine. To register a telephone number, consumers may call the Federal Trade Commission at 1-888-382-1222 or the state Department of Consumer Protection at 1-800-842-2649.



## Additional Resources and Links

Follow links to these special pages from [www.senatedems.ct.gov](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov):

- Resources for Jobseekers
- Protecting Homeowners, Preventing Foreclosures
- Veterans' Guide
- Health Care Programs in Connecticut



Dear Neighbor:

These are unprecedented times: families are struggling, yet gridlock in Washington ensures that Congress gets nothing done. It's a different story in Connecticut; we put partisan differences aside and passed an historic Jobs Bill. The legislation will help create thousands of jobs by reducing red tape, cutting taxes for small businesses and investing in training and education.

Together, we're working to strengthen Connecticut's economy, balance the budget and show that bipartisanship doesn't have to be a bad word.

This newsletter details some of the initiatives we've taken to help our economy and improve your quality of life. Please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ed Meyer  
State Senator

## Stay Informed in a "Green" Way



Sign-up to receive my e-mail newsletter. It's a paperless way for me to communicate with my constituents about timely issues that impact our communities and our state. To sign up, visit: [www.SenatorMeyer.ct.gov](http://www.SenatorMeyer.ct.gov)



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## Fighting for Jobs & the Economy

State Senator  
**Ed Meyer**

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Representing

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WINTER 2011





# STATE SENATOR Ed Meyer

Serving Branford, Durham, Guilford, Killingworth, Madison & North Branford

WINTER 2011

## LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS

### Advancing the American Dream

All state residents who are graduates of Connecticut high schools should be able to attend community colleges and state universities at the in-state tuition rate regardless of their immigration status, provided that they received a Connecticut high school diploma. A component of our new law requires that these students sign an affidavit vowing to legalize their immigration status. This law would help higher education become accessible for deserving, hard-working students who are pursuing the American dream and ensure that these young adults don't suffer for a decision their parents made very long ago.



### Insuring MRIs to Fight Breast Cancer

We've stepped-up the fight against breast cancer by passing a law requiring certain insurance companies to pay for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for breast cancer screening when a woman has what's called 'dense' breast tissue. A typical mammogram may not reliably detect breast cancer tumors in such tissue. The new law also requires MRI coverage if a woman is at increased risk for breast cancer due to family history or prior personal history.

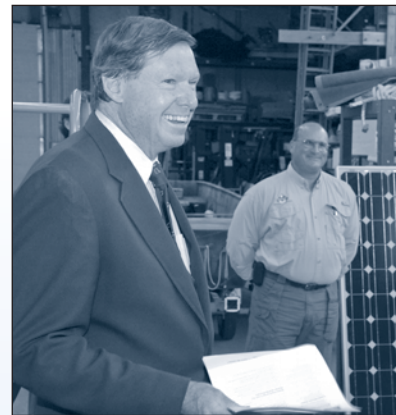


### Fairer Taxes for Afghanistan Veterans

Maybe you have a family member or a friend who is serving or has served in the armed forces in Afghanistan. We passed a law that now requires cities and towns to waive the interest on property taxes owed by soldiers while serving in Afghanistan. Armed forces members serving in other parts of the Middle East are also eligible for this waiver on property tax interest.



## GROWING JOBS



Jobs are the number one issue facing Connecticut today. We took action in the legislature this year to put more people back to work and get our economy growing again. Unlike the partisan gridlock in Washington, both parties came together in Hartford to pass a Jobs Bill of common sense improvements. We focused on small businesses, **cut the business entity tax in half**, and

**streamlined state regulations.** Other highlights of the bill include:

- ▶ **Helping small businesses with hiring**—We established a monthly hiring tax credit that increases when businesses hire unemployed, disabled or veteran workers. We also made it easier for businesses to hire new workers for on-the-job training.
- ▶ **Investing in start-ups**—At a time when many banks aren't lending, we invested in new start-up companies by building business incubators and expanding the angel investor tax credit.
- ▶ **Building a workforce of the future**—We will recruit students for vo-tech, agri-science and tech education by promoting their benefits with middle school parents and local boards of education. We'll also establish manufacturing technology programs at three community colleges.
- ▶ **Investing in infrastructure**—Paved the way for economic development zones at Connecticut's general aviation airports, allocated funds for shovel-ready bridge projects, and passed major reforms to lower energy costs and increase energy efficiency.

In separate legislation, we rebuilt the UConn Health Center, attracting bioscience leader Jackson Laboratory to build a \$1.1 billion research facility nearby. This will create 900 construction positions and up to 6,000 long-term jobs.

The national economy remains tough, but we took big steps this year to get Connecticut growing again.

### Balancing the Budget, Making Ends Meet

Everyone is feeling the budget pinch in this economy, including state governments. Connecticut's new biennial budget includes \$1 billion in spending cuts and \$1.6 billion in labor concessions, without relying on borrowing or fiscal gimmicks to fund ongoing operating expenses. At the same time, we protected state levels of municipal aid, which helps towns and cities avoid raising local property taxes. I voted no on that part of the budget that imposed an historic tax increase, primarily on the middle class and not the wealthiest residents.

## FOR OUR STATE & OUR COMMUNITY

### Protecting Municipal Aid

State funding for cities, towns and schools impacts your property taxes. That's why I fought hard to protect funding for **Branford, Durham, Guilford, Killingworth, Madison and North Branford**. Further, I support Governor Malloy's proposal to re-examine our state's formula for education cost sharing. Our towns should be doing better.

### BWI: Boating While Intoxicated

On Labor Day in 2009, a drunken boater crashed into a sea wall near the Thimble Islands, killing one passenger and injuring others. Legal loopholes have allowed too many similar incidents to escape prosecution, so I sponsored successful legislation this year to close them. Now a conviction for reckless boating automatically results in suspension of boating rights and allows evidence collected soon after an accident to be admitted in court.



### Transportation & Recreation for Our Community

As your state Senator, I fight hard to win support for important projects in our community. This year, I secured funds for improvements to the Shore Line East railroad in Branford and Guilford, and for repair of the Guilford town dock. I also secured support for projects at Hammonasset Beach, which will include new toilet buildings, boardwalk repairs, erosion prevention and design of a new Nature Center. Also, funding was approved for the Soundview Family YMCA's swimming pool and activity complex in Branford.

### Learning From Two Extreme Storms

Connecticut was hit hard with two extreme storms nine weeks apart. In both instances, hundreds of thousands of households and businesses lost power, most for 5-12 days. The large number of lengthy outages across the state, primarily in CL&P coverage areas, has led to many questions about this utility's ability to prepare for and manage these drastic situations. CL&P is now under heavy scrutiny and action will be taken by the legislature to address its failure. In a series of post-storm hearings, we listened to suggestions from the public and local officials based on their experiences. We crafted their ideas into recommendations that have now been shared with the governor's Two Storm Panel.



Guilford First Selectman Joseph Mazza and Branford First Selectman "Unk" DaRos testify before a joint legislative hearing on Connecticut's readiness and response to Tropical Storm Irene in September at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.